(c) the names of the countries who promote and encourage the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) As per information furnished by ICMR, as of 1999, the prevalence of tobacco related cancer was 1,63,500 cases. According to community based surveys conducted in India, an estimated eight lakh deaths per year could be attributable to tobacco use.

(b) Studies have revealed that treatment of tobacco related diseases and the loss of productivity caused therein cost the country almost Rs. 13,500 crores per annum (at 1990 levels.)

(c) There are around 117 countries which produce and manufacture tobacco and tobacco products. These include the USA, UK, various EU member nations, China, India etc.

Agricultural imports

1657. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural products whose imports have gone up during the last three years;

(b) the extent of such increase in terms of rupees and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of these imports on domestic agricultural products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) A statement showing import of major agricultural commodities during last three years is enclosed, (see below)

It would be seen that the figures do not reveal any established trend regarding increase in imports. Imports seem to be taking place as per domestic and international demand-supply situation. Some imports such as cashewnut, natural rubber, raw silk and cotton take

place for re-export after processing and value addition. There is a known shortage of some items like pulses in the country.

However imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure, through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms, that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to domestic farmers.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

(Value in Rs. Crore)

SI. No.	Items	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Wheat	1165	774	3
2.	Rice	5	30	18
3.	Other Cereals	1	114	16
4.	Pulses	709	355	494
5.	Tea	65	26	41
6.	Cashewnuts	969	1198	962
7.	Fruits & Nuts Excl. Cashewnuts	670	591	804
8.	Spices	299	294	250
9.	Oil Seeds	9	15	8
10.	Natural Rubber	91	57	29
11.	Jute, Raw	86	139	83
12.	Silk, Raw	259	413	476
13.	Cotton Raw Combed/Uncombed/ Waste	381	1254	1183

*Provisional.